

Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-18 and 21-42, without prejudice, and add new claims 43-68, as follows:

Listing of the Claims

1-42. (Cancelled)

43. (New) A meat brine comprising a salt stable starch, wherein said starch is a non-cereal starch comprising at least 95% of amylopectin.

44. (New) A meat brine according to claim 43, wherein said starch is derived from a genetically modified plant.

45. (New) A meat brine according to claim 44, wherein said plant is a potato.

46. (New) A meat brine according to claim 43, wherein said starch is cross-linked.

47. (New) A meat brine according to claim 43, wherein said starch has been stabilized by one of hydroxyalkylation, carboxymethylation, hydroxypropylation, hydroxybutylation, hydroxyethylation, and/or acetylation.

48. (New) A meat brine according to claim 43, wherein said starch is an instant starch.

49. (New) A meat brine according to claim 46, wherein said starch is cross-linked using phosphorus oxytrichloride or sodium trimetaphosphate.

50. (New) A meat brine according to claim 43, wherein said starch is a hydroxyalkylated starch or an acetylated starch.

51. (New) A meat or meat product comprising a meat brine, wherein said meat brine comprises a salt stable starch, and wherein said starch is a non-cereal starch comprising at least 95% of amylopectin.

52. (New) A meat or meat product according to claim 51, wherein said meat or meat product comprises at least 0.1 (w/w)% of a sodium salt.

53. (New) A meat or meat product according to claim 51, wherein said meat or meat product comprises at least 0.5 (w/w)% of a sodium salt.

54. (New) A meat or meat product according to claim 51, wherein said meat or meat product comprises at least 1 (w/w)% of a sodium salt.

55. (New) A meat or meat product according to claim 54, wherein said salt is sodium chloride.

56. (New) A meat or meat product according to claim 54, wherein said salt is monosodium glutamate.

57. (New) A meat or meat product according to claim 51, wherein said meat or meat product comprises at least 0.5 (w/w)% of a milk protein or derivative thereof.

58. (New) A meat or meat product according to claim 51, wherein said meat or meat product comprises at least 1 (w/w)% of a milk protein or derivative thereof.

59. (New) A meat or meat product according to claim 58, wherein said protein is caseine.

60. (New) A meat or meat product according to claim 51, wherein said meat or meat product comprises at least 0.5 (w/w)% of a calcium salt.

61. (New) A meat or meat product according to claim 51, wherein said meat or meat product comprises preferably at least 1 (w/w)% of a calcium salt.

62. (New) A meat or meat product according to claim 61, wherein said salt is

calcium chloride.

63. (New) A meat or meat product according to claim 51, wherein said meat or meat product comprises at least 5 (w/w)% of a sugar.

64. (New) A meat or meat product according to claim 51, wherein said meat or meat product comprises at least 10 (w/w)% of a sugar

65. (New) A meat or meat product according to claim 51, wherein said meat or meat product comprises at least 20 (w/w)% of a sugar.

66. (New) A meat or meat product according to claim 65, wherein said sugar is sucrose.

67. (New) A method for preparing a meat or a meat product, said method comprising injecting into the meat or meat product a meat brine comprising a salt stable starch, wherein said starch is a non-cereal starch comprising at least 95% of amylopectin.

68. (New) A method for retaining water in a meat or a meat product, said method comprising injecting into the meat or meat product a meat brine comprising a salt stable starch, wherein said starch is a non-cereal starch comprising at least 95% of amylopectin.